

REMARKS

As the Examiner will note from the Declaration and the file wrapper, the instant application is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/827,263, filed March 28, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 6,747,692. The first paragraph on page 1 of the specification has been updated.

Hence, the effective date of the instant application is March 28, 1997 which antedates the filing date of June 17, 1997 of U.S. Patent No. 6,185,413 to Mueller, which was the principal reference relied on to reject all the claims. Hence, Mueller is not a reference under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), and all rejections based on Mueller should be withdrawn.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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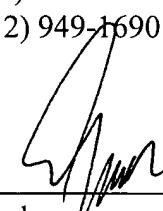
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